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Improvisations, op. 20

BARTÓK



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1921

*bela*



*bartók*

**IMPROVISATIONS**

**OPUS 20**

***piano solo***

**B O O S E Y & H A W K E S**





My

BÉLA BARTÓK

IMPROVISATIONS

OP. 20  
*for*  
PIANO

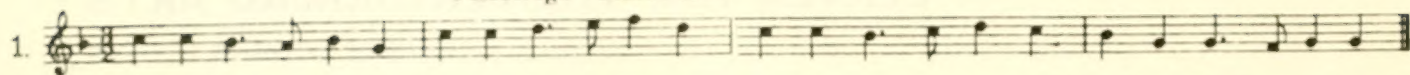
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BOOSEY & HAWKES

Printed in U.S.A.

## Improvisations on Hungarian Peasant Songs Op. 20.

Felsőiregh (Tolna), 1907



1. My aunt was making strudel; I didn't eat any. She took it into the garden in her little flowered apron. My uncle went after with his new coat with a collar on it. He kissed auntie right in the middle of the garden.

Planting, Harvest, wedding, funeral, Christmas,  
Easter, feast days, birthdays, named



Dorian - c d e f g a b b  
 T - 2nds, 3rds only melody  
 T - 3x 1) 2nds above T  
 2) Mtr triads over T  
 3) lig chords embellished  
 double accents

09/61.159

8

1, 2, 7, 8

# IMPROVISATIONS

sur des chansons paysannes hongroises

Droits d'exécution réservés.

I.

Béla Bartók, Op. 20.

2<sup>nde</sup>  
 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 lig chord

Tempo  
 Molto moderato. (♩ = 44-48)  
 pp  
 Piano. p dolce

May + Min 3<sup>rd</sup> over mel  
 poco rall. a tempo  
 (Ped)

poco rall. a tempo  
 espr. mp

mf dim.

p dim. pp  
 (attacca:)

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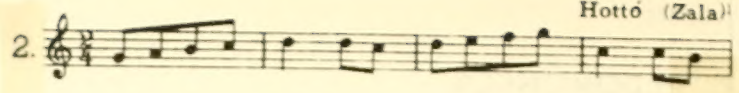
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4X:C e a b c (M 3rd up) 3 episodes  
 ant symmetrical phrase line  
 Molto Capriccioso -  
 tempo changes  
 4 syncopation  
 Polydian c d e b g a b c

Hottó (Zala)



2. Text lacking.



Molto capriccioso.  $(\text{♩} = 63)$  accelerando sempre -

Piano. *pesante*

- al Vivace.  $(\text{♩} = 144)$

Tempo I.  $(\text{♩} = 63)$  accelerando -

- al Vivace.  $(\text{♩} = 144)$



Meno mosso.

(♩ = 112)

ritardando - - - molto  
(♩ = 50)

First system of music. Piano staff starts with *mf*, followed by *sf* and *mf*. Bass staff has *mp* and *dim.*. A *ritardando* marking spans the end of the system, leading to a *molto* tempo change indicated by a new note value.

a tempo (tranquillo)

(♩ = 100)

ritard. molto - - a tempo

Second system of music. Both piano and bass staves start with a *p* (piano) dynamic. A *ritard. molto* marking is present, followed by a return to *a tempo*.

ritard. molto

Vivace.

(♩ = 144)

Lento.

(♩ = 72)

ritardando - -

con sentimento

Third system of music. Piano staff has *sf subito, dim. molto leggero*. Bass staff has *p*. A *ritardando* marking is present, leading to a *Lento* section with a tempo of 72.

a tempo

(♩ = 72)

accel. molto

Vivace.

(♩ = 144)

Fourth system of music. Piano staff has *mf cresc. molto*. Bass staff has *f marcato*. A *ritardando* marking is present, leading to a *Lento* section with a tempo of 72.

Più presto.

(♩ = 164)

Fifth system of music. Piano staff has *cresc.* and *f marcato*. Bass staff has *f marcato*. A *ritardando* marking is present, leading to a *Lento* section with a tempo of 72.



apolyllian Sop, Tenor, then together  
 3 X  
 6  
 4 the air... and tritone  
 white music

Korogy (Szerényi)



3. Behold, here is drifting a black cloud: in it is flutter  
 send a message through you to my father, to my mother, I  
 in the Great cemetery I want to rest.

### III.

Lento, rubato. (♩ = ca. 96)

*pp senza colore*

*mf quasi parlando*

*sempre pp*

*mf*

*p dolce*

*pp*

*pma espr*

*pp*

*p dolce*

*mf quasi parlando*

*(non legato)*

*molto espr*

*più lento (♩ = 55)*

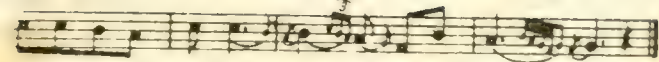
*espr*

*mf*

*f*

The main musical score is written for piano and voice. It begins with a tempo marking of 'Lento, rubato' and a note value of '♩ = ca. 96'. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of several systems of staves. The piano part features complex chordal textures and melodic lines, often with triplets and slurs. The voice part is written in a single staff, with lyrics in Hungarian. The score includes various dynamic markings such as 'pp', 'mf', 'p', 'f', and 'ppma', as well as performance instructions like 'senza colore', 'quasi parlando', 'dolce', 'espr', and 'non legato'. The piece concludes with a section marked 'più lento' and a new tempo of '♩ = 55'.





ing a yellow-footed raven. Stop, raven, stop. I want to  
o my beloved. If they ask how I am say that I am sick.

**sempre più tranquillo**

*mp cantando* *dim.* *p* *mp cantando* *semplice*

**Ancora più lento.**

(♩ = cca. 52)

*mf* *cresc.* *cresc. molto*

*f* *dim.* *p* *pp* *ppp* *(attacca:)*

**IV**

4. The wind is blowing from the Danube. If the wind is blowing from the Danube, it always reaches a poor man.

**Allegretto scherzando. (♩ = 108)**

*p*

*mp*

*p* *mf* *mp* *p*

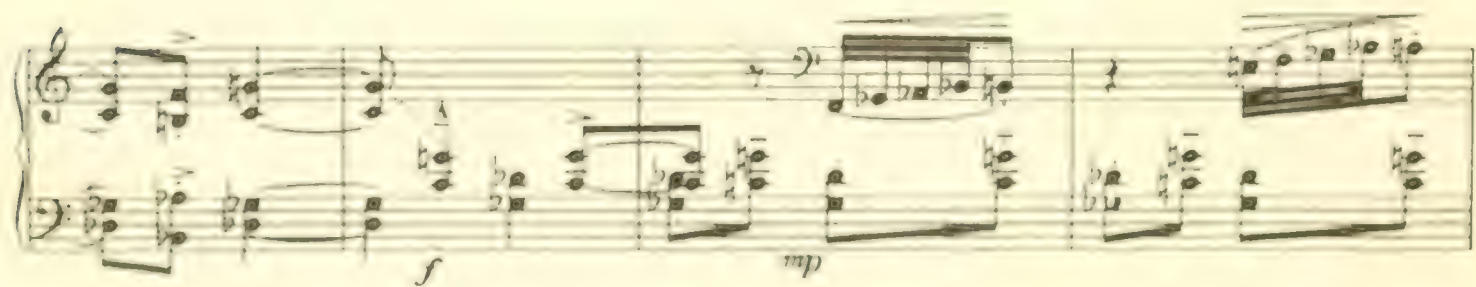
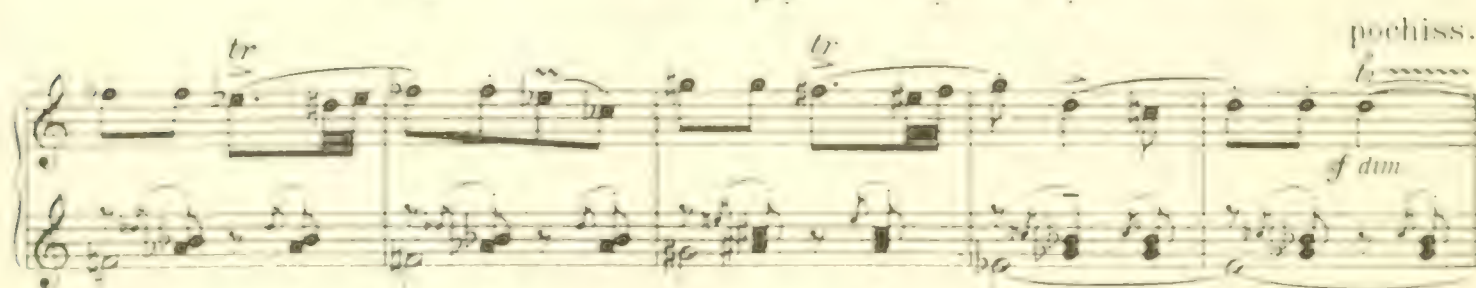
4.



accel.

Poco più mosso.

(♩ = 132 - 126)





-39-3-12  
Pentatonic flavor - recovers to  
Interludes use 4th &  
Canon at close  
The clusters  
Lenny Lane  
infund

no

V.

allargando - - - al Allegro.  
(♩ = 84)

Allegro molto.  
(♩ = 100)

stringendo - - - rallentando a tempo  
(♩ = 92)

Hottó (Zala) 1)

5. Text lacking.



accelerando

a tempo

(♩ = 68)

tr

mf

p leggiero

mp

p leggiero

sempre stringendo sin al fine

## VI.

6. O my Lord, this old man still he

race me.

Allegro moderato, molto capriccioso.

accelerando

(♩ = 108)

mf scherzando

poco rubato fin al segno S

(♩ = ca. 88)

p leggiero

(3m)



First system of musical notation, featuring piano and bass staves with complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and a trill (tr).

Second system of musical notation, continuing the piece with piano and bass staves. It includes a section marked "accelerando" and a dynamic marking "p".

al Più mosso.  
(♩ = 116-120)

Third system of musical notation, marked "al Più mosso." with a tempo of 116-120 beats per minute. It features piano and bass staves with complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets.

poco ritardando -

Tempo I.  
(♩ = 108)

Fourth system of musical notation, marked "poco ritardando" and "Tempo I." with a tempo of 108 beats per minute. It features piano and bass staves with complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets. Dynamic markings include "mf espr.", "p", and "p semplice".

rallent. poco a poco accel..

a tempo  
(♩ = 108)

Fifth system of musical notation, marked "rallent. poco a poco accel.." and "a tempo" with a tempo of 108 beats per minute. It features piano and bass staves with complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets. Dynamic markings include "mf" and "p".

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Sixth system of musical notation, continuing the piece with piano and bass staves. It includes a section marked "a tempo" and a dynamic marking "p".

Csikgyimesi (Csik, 11)



espr. più sostenuto

Poco a poco accelerando sin al fine.

p f cresc.

poco marcato, sempre più pesante f

# VII.

Sostenuto, rubato. p f mp pp

p pp mf



Più sostenuto. (♩ = 32)

*pp*  
*perese molto*  
*f molto espr.*  
*mf*

Sempre più sostenuto. (al ♩ = 80)

*p*  
*mp dolce*  
*mf*

*mp dolce*  
*cresc.*  
*mf*

*f molto espr.*  
*mf*  
*mp espr.*

*sempre più sostenuto*  
*mf molto espr.*  
*p*  
*pp*

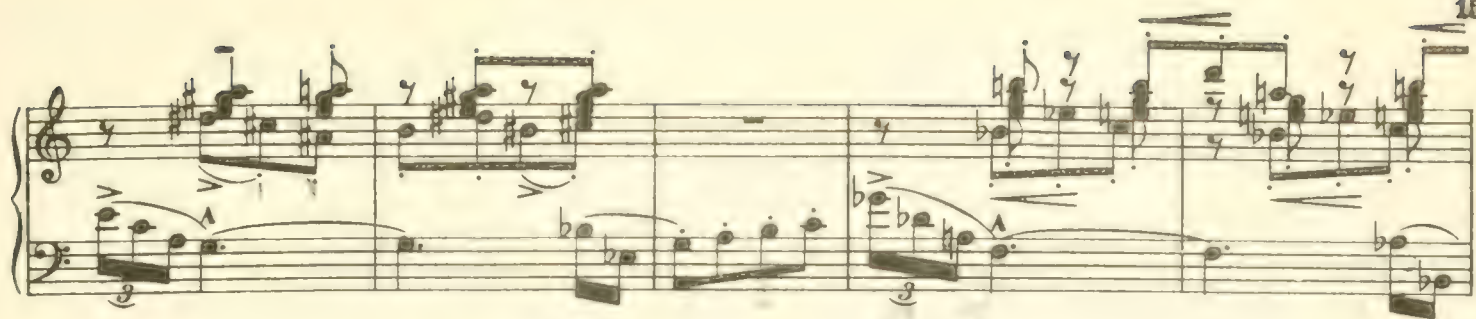
Più lento. (♩ = 52)

*pp*  
*p*  
*pp*  
*poco rall.*  
*pp*











*Sostenuto subito.*  
(♩ = 114)

*f* *franc. raso*

*allargando*

*si cresce molto.*

*al Maestoso.*  
(♩ = 80)

*marcatissimo*

*poco accelerando*

*al Allegro.*  
(♩ = 116)

*allargando*

*sempre cresc.*

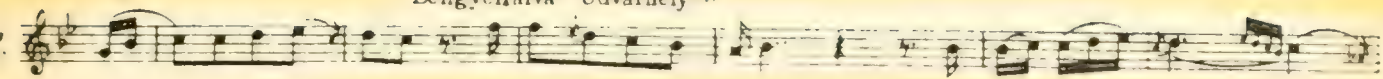
*a tempo*  
(♩ = 116)

*briso*

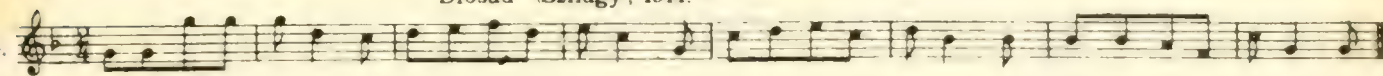
*f* *ff*



Lengyelfalva 'Udvarhely' 1.



Díósad (Szilágy), 1914. 3)



. In summer it's not good to harvest: it's difficult to manage. It's better to stay home and dally with a young maid.

# B é l a B a r t ó k

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